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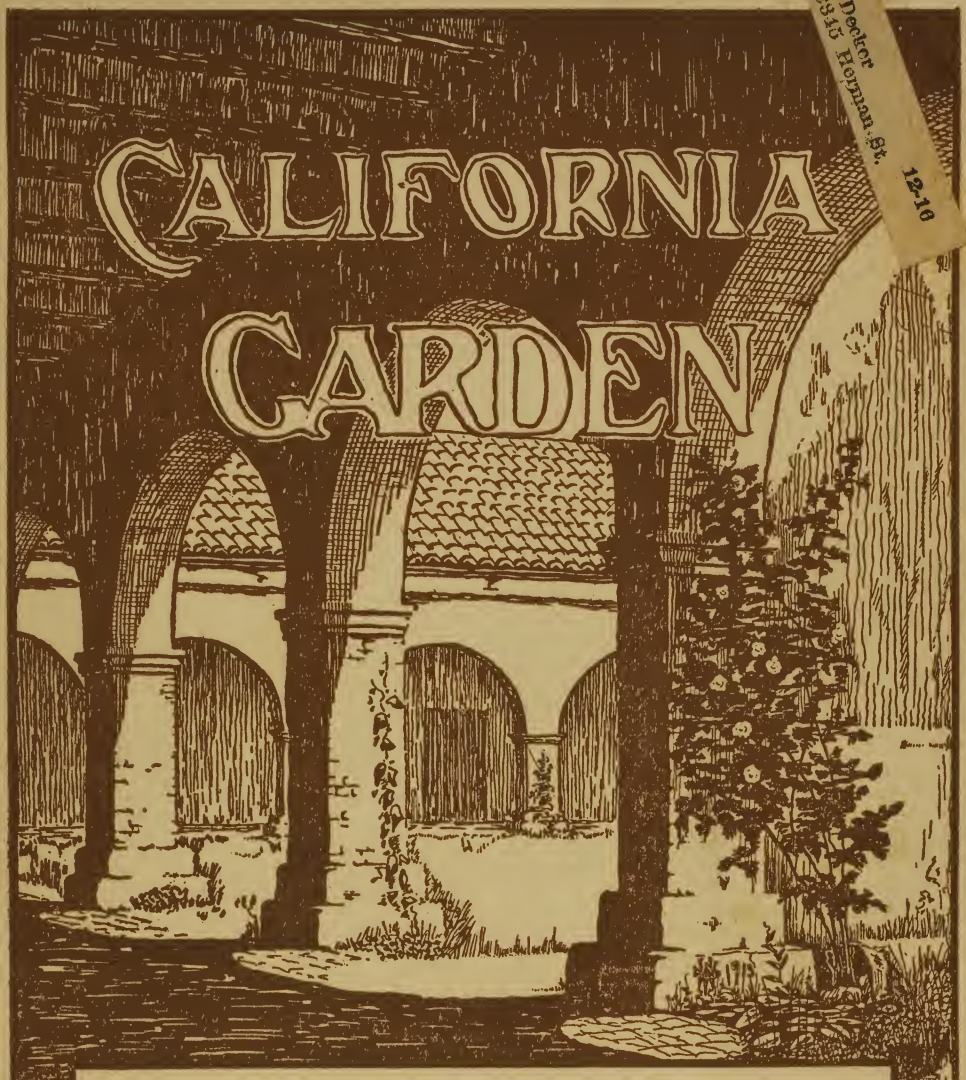
CALIFORNIA GARDEN



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Miss Ramford *1115 Fourth St.*

The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

Vol. 9 POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, MARCH AND APRIL, 1918 No. 9

WE are foregoing the pleasure of spreading our editorial thoughts before you in favor of the following statement sent out by the Food Administration and we ask you to read it and ponder over it. Perhaps you think you have no time; if so, make it. We read a hundred of these articles for every one we ask you to read and get so stirred up over the whole business that we want to pass on to you the urge to at least do as your government asks, and we are obliged to add that so far you have been let in as a partner in this War for Right on mighty easy terms. To those who must individualise everything follow this program and select your soldier boy that you are fatting up by your compliance. You cannot go wrong by choosing John Smith, or Brown, for there are over a thousand of each in the draft:

If we are to furnish the Allies with the necessary proportion of wheat to maintain their war bread from now until the next, harvest and this is a military necessity, we must reduce our monthly consumption to 21,000,000 bushels a month as against our normal consumption of about 42,000,000 bushels, or 50 per cent of our normal consumption. Reserving a margin for distribution to the Army and for special cases, leaves for general consumption approximately 1½ pounds of wheat products weekly per person. Many of our consumers are dependent upon bakers' bread. Such bread must be durable and therefore requires a larger proportion of wheat produts than cereal breads baked in the household. Our Army and Navy require a full allowance. The well-to-do in our population can make greater sacrifices in the consumption of wheat products than can the poor. In addition, our population in the agricultural districts, where the other cereals are abundant, are more skilled in the preparation of breads from these other cereals than the crowded city and industrial populations.

With improved transportation conditions we now have available a surplus of potatoes. We also have in the spring months a surplus of milk, and we have ample corn and oats for human consumption. The drain on rye and barley as substitutes has already greatly exhausted the supply of these grains.

To effect the needed saving of wheat we are wholly dependent upon the voluntary assistance of the American people and we ask that the following rules shall be observed:

1. Householders to use not to exceed a total of 1½ pounds per week of wheat products per person. This means not more than 1½ pounds of Victory bread containing the required percentage of substitutes and one-half pound of cooking flour, macaroni, crackers, pastry, pies, cakes, wheat breakfast cereals, all combined.

2. Public eating places and clubs to observe two wheatless days per week, Monday and Wednesday, as at present. In addition thereto, not to serve to any one guest at any one meal, an aggregate of breadstuffs, macaroni, crackers, pastry, pies, cakes, wheat breakfast cereals, containing a total of more than 2 ounces of wheat flour. No wheat products to be served unless specially ordered. Public eating establishments not to buy more than 6 pounds of wheat products for each ninety meals served, thus conforming with the limitations requested of the householders.

3. Retailers to sell not more than one-eighth of a barrel of flour to any town customer at any one time and not more than one-quarter of a barrel to any country customer at any one time, and in no case to sell wheat products without the sale of an equal weight of other cereals.

4. We ask the bakers and grocers to reduce the volume of Victory bread sold, by delivery to the three-quarter pound loaf where one pound was sold before, and corresponding proportions in other weights. We also ask bakers not to increase the amount of their wheat flour purchases beyond 70 per cent of the average monthly amount purchased in the four months prior to March 1st.

5. Manufacturers using wheat products for non-food purposes should cease such use entirely.

6. There is no limit upon the use of other cereals, flours and meals, corn, barley, buckwheat, potato flour, et cetera.

Many thousand families throughout the land are now using no wheat products whatever, except a very small amount for cooking purposes, and are doing so in perfect health and satisfaction. There is no reason why all of the American people who are able to cook in their own households cannot subsist perfectly well with the use of less wheat products than one and one-half pounds a week, and we specially ask the well-to-do households in the country to follow this additional programme in order that we may provide the necessary marginal supplies for those parts of the community less able to adapt themselves to so large a proportion of substitutes.

In order that we shall be able to make the wheat exports that are absolutely demanded of us to maintain the civil population and soldiers of the Allies and our own Army, we propose to supplement the voluntary co-operation of the public by a further limitation of distribution, and we shall place at once restrictions on distribution which will be adjusted from time to time to secure as nearly equitable distribution as possible. With the arrival of harvest we should be able to relax such restrictions; until then we ask for the necessary patience, sacrifice and co-operation of the distributing trades.

The Flower Garden

Miss Mary Matthews

This month will give full opportunity for garden planting and will keep you busy if you plant everything your garden will hold, or what you care to have in it. The planting list for this month is a long one, and if you have any spare time you can put in by taking out weeds. Do not let them get the benefit of the enrichment and moisture in the soil.

Planting and transplanting can be done. Subtropical shrubs and vines can be planted now with the greatest amount of success; hibiscus, pittosporums, lantanas, daturas, cestrums, all will grow and are good in the shrubbery. Be sure and add some of the newer viburmuns, the lonicera (bush honeysuckle) also the charming buddleia asiatica, which has proven fairly hardy in this locality. Lift your chrysanthemums this month. Divide and take off the newly sprouted shoots around the base of the old clump and throw the balance away. Plant in fresh soil well manured, give a good watering, keep the weeds and the soil loose. The little pompons and the old early garden kinds are fine for mass effect, and require less care than the florists' varieties.

Keep your perennials well cultivated. Delphiniums will require attention now where you have brought the clumps through the season. Work a little bonemeal in around the roots and sprinkle lime on the surface, as the slugs and snails dote on them.

Among the old time favorites the antirrhinum, or snapdragon, are again in the front. These can be treated as annuals. Spring-sown seed will give blooms this fall. In their permanent places the plants should be about ten inches apart in the bed. Pinching out the tops wil give good results, though the blooms will come later.

Plant cosmos this month. They make a good boundary fence. Zinnias also can be started in flats now. The plants are always much stronger if transplanted. Look after your aster plants, or they will be destroyed over night by cutworms and slugs. Sulphur and airslacked lime are good on the leaves and ashes or soot on the soil around them.

Summer-blooming bulbs must go in this month. Amaryllis, crinums, tigridias, pancratiums, tuberoses, are all good. Plant in a sunny spot in moist, sandy soil and give some protection from the winds.

Notwithstanding the war gardens and the stress of times, horticulturists and florists still tempt us with new things, new creations in those raised from seed, a new lily from the mountains of North Carolina, and charming new shrubs with either edible or decorative fruits. One longs to buy one of each.

People who have so much money that they need only spend it ONCE lose a great deal of pleasure. Five dollars will plant a garden many times **on paper** and if the next day one feels a bit dissatisfied with the effect, one can just take a fresh sheet and plant it all over again.—"The Garden Year Book."

Happy is that garden which needs no treatment! I will go the length in fighting weeds and nursing seedlings, but my enthusiasm dwindles rapidly when pests appear.—"The Garden Year Book."

Buy Liberty Bonds.

The Dahlia

Alfred D. Robinson

THE season has arrived and a generous rain or so and I dare to talk dahlia for 1918. There is no hurry but tubers can be planted any time and you are advised to look up some of the many lists of varieties published in back numbers of the Garden. We ought to have a big display of them. A good many of you must be tired to have me go over and over again the same old simple directions about the culture of the dahlia and I know it is painful to myself, but there seems no hope of shelving the job unless I cease altogether to worry you about your gardens. Why does not some one arise and say, "We have had enough, more than enough, of this Robinson, who without ceasing in and out of season presumes to tell us what to do in our gardens so that we cannot have the combinations we want and nothing at all but lovely clean cement in some cases?"

From recent observation of some stock exposed for sale I am led to recommend that dealers offering dahlia tubers for sale should sprout them so that the many disappointments caused by lovely tubers failing to grow might be avoided. How many million times have I written that dahlias don't sprout from eyes in the tubers like potatoes, but from the crown or central part to which the tubers adhere and which has the butt end of the old stalk. A long neck to a tuber is not necessarily a part of this crown; in fact, single tubers with long thin necks are for the most part a delusion and a snare, simply because this long thin neck is the poorest medium to retain life over the dormant period. Of some fifty of these planted last year only two sprouted. The very surest of all tubers to grow is a small group with the old stalk intact. This naturally brings us to the right method of dividing a clump. Under the mode of culture recommended by this magazine in times gone by the dahlia clump will be more or less tubers hanging from one thick stalk, in which case saw off the stalk square. They are tough and efforts to cut or break them off will only result in a bungled job and possibly bad words. Leaving about three inches then with a good sized thin knife, encouraged by a block of wood, split the crown through this stalk leaving on each piece one or more good, sound tubers. Be sure that the tuber is joined to the crown by live tissue. Suspect any neck that shows signs of peeling; it is most likely dead there. Where clumps have grown at their own sweet will several stalks may happen and in this case divide the clump by the stalks leaving each a good tuber. With reasonable care every one of these will grow, but it is sound practice to place them half buried in sand or moss, when if in sheltered place and kept damp, they will soon sprout, in fact commercially the green plants are these sprouts, so forced, rooted as cuttings. One thing leads to another and this reference to cuttings reminds me that urged thereto by various disciples, shall we say, I grew several cuttings of a choice seedling from the side shoots on a green mature stalk. Several rooted and made small tubers which refused to sprout the next year and I have since been told that such sulking is the normal condition of cuttings taken from this section. They should be young shoots direct from the old tuber.

Dahlia tubers in this climate want to be well down in the soil below the hot zone, which is from three to six inches, according to whether the land is heavy or light, but for such early planting as this they must not be covered with more than three inches of dirt for they want warmth, so dig your holes a good foot deep, even deeper for large tubers, but only cover with three inches. The rest may be filled in as the shoots grow out. Don't put any manure in with the tuber and in planting see that the soil fills in all around and under. A fruitful source of wilting down and dying after starting is this leaving of a cavity around the tuber in planting. There is little danger of this if the soil pulverizes easily, but it is worth while to plant carefully and understandingly. Give dahlias room to grow three feet between and four with big growers.

Again I make a plea for the planting of Geisha, that wonderful red and gold peony flowered. Tubers of it are now quite cheap.

How about that dahlia club? A few notified me they would join and I hold a Gustav Doazon for them whenever they like to come after it. Unfortunately I am too busy to deliver, and one of the war slogans is carry home your own packages."

"It's rather dark in the earth today,"
Said one little bulb to his brother;
"But I thought that I felt a sunbeam ray,
We must strive and grow till we find the way,"
And they nestled close to each other.
Then they struggled and toiled by day and by night,
Till two little snowdrops in green and white
Rose out of the darkness and into the light
And softly kissed one another.

—"The Garden Year Book."

Buy Liberty Bonds.

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

I DON'T believe in apologies even when they are sincere. They depress the maker and unduly inflate the recipient, and so without any preliminaries I am going to talk war again. First, I want to give you a bit of a letter from rural England. "Since I wrote you last, America has joined with us in declaring war on Germany and with her characteristic thoroughness and expedition has lost no time in making all needful preparations. The burning question now is, 'what can be had for dinner?' or whether any dinner at all will be forthcoming, for food is getting very short here and I fear there is worse to come. It is wonderful what America has done and is doing in the matter of food shortage. You have a great man in Mr. Hoover."

I give you this to read as an antidote to the large space recently devoted in our daily press to the personal experiences of the owners' families in contact with the draft law. If you share my feelings in even a small degree you consider these most futile while the fate of the world hangs in the balance. Are we realizing that this is really the case, or are we Neros fiddling while Rome burns. There is grave doubt whether old Nero did this thing, but it would not be difficult to bring overwhelming evidence that lots of us are "fiddling" around while a continent burns.

We have not been sparing of our criticisms, written and spoken, of the ignorance of the masses in other combatant countries, more particularly about the war and its issues, and yet our own knowledge thereof might possibly be enlarged. The Committee on Public Information at Washington thinks it might be improved and has issued a War Cyclopedia, a book of over 300 pages with maps, containing a world of information and it is to be obtained for the nominal sum of twenty-five cents by application to this Committee at Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. Just as an illustration of its usefulness I find that Bolsheviki, which I have always supposed to be half a man who betrayed Russia, is really a Russian word meaning, "belonging to the majority," and is the name of a political party. Send for this book and learn just why you believe you are on the side of Right.

Over two years ago I was visited by a countryman, an old friend whom I had not seen for years, and whatsoever reminiscence we started on, the subject of the war broke it off in a few moments and a third party said to my visitor, "Oh cannot you talk anything but war?" and he replied, "No! there does not seem to be anything else that matters." I don't say we all have to talk about the war all the time, but we ought to think about it day and night and to think rightly we must be informed. As this is written we hold our breath and wait for news from the front in France, where the German monster has again bared his hideous fangs and wallows in the blood of both sides. Before it is in print hundreds of thousands more victims will have fallen to his militarist lust. There is but the one isue in the world today, all recognize that at this moment of intense hazard, but shall we go back after the height of the wave subsides to fussing about our individual sacrifices, as we call them? There is a book by Gertrude Atherton called, "The Living Present", about the Women of France, and its perusal is good for our souls. I told you last month about my shivering and shaking gardener and so I feel I ought to say that I find him speculating as to just the most helpful thing he can do to help the Government program. He still thinks that the selfishness of man has a lot to do with high prices and I cannot so confidently contradict him as I might wish, but I consider him a convert.

All kinds of petitions anent "Reconstruction" are circulating. They read socialistically and they may be all right, but all the cards for the game of "After the war" are not dealt yet, and one that is still in the pack is that the world is about to take a new attitude toward money which this war is showing up as a mere symbol. The financial satisticians said lack of money would end the war in a few months; after some years we now say food is the deciding item, and possibly the third conclusion will be that plenty or scarcity has nothing to do with the value of an article; that bread at a dollar a loaf will not support life one moment after a five-cent loaf. It is dreadfully upsetting to think of values based on intrinsic worth rather than on supply and demand and yet the Food Administration must work from such a basis. The English Government has said bread is the staff of life, all must have it, so it pays out $250,000,000 a year to keep its loaf cheap.

This war is a terribly high priced thing and we are apt to ask, "What has it purchased?" The safety of Democracy in the world. It is perfectly plain that the world-honored formulator of this splendid doctrine did not mean by it a greater individual freedom to exploit others. Judging by his own action he considers it rather an opportunity for greater self-sacrifice. We cannot get it unless we pull the boat altogether with harmonious stroke. We have got to say, "Aye, Aye, Sir,"

when the captain gives orders and we are doing it; and the reconstructionists go further and say to the captain, "Keep on giving orders, even when Democracy is safe." Perhaps we have a glimpse of a democracy in which the only freedom is the privilege of doing the right thing.

Read that extract from the English letter again. There is no stimulus to well-doing like an emphatic belief in the doer and if you run against evidence of the work of the Food Administration, and hear the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker all kicking, as in rare individual cases they are, you may know that body is attending to business without fear or favor. If there were no kicks its work would be mightly ineffective.

Don't run away with the notion that the food regulations have passed me by. They are compelling me to feed some slacker, old hens that cackle derisively every time the feed bucket passes round, and since that "no hens to the butcher" edict, have even given up the farce of going on the nest occasionally.

The War Garden

By Walter Birch

FOOD will win the war. Produce it! That sounds easy, but it means hard work, but what is there worth having in this world that does not mean hard work, and hard work is one of the best things that can happen to us!

In planting the War Garden, and what is more important, giving it the care it requires during the warm summer months (when one feels more like spending the little leisure time one has, swinging in the hammock or reading on the porch), we are not only helping ourselves, but most decidedly doing our duty, in this particular anyway, and helping to increase the food supply of the country. The world is facing a food famine which, unless we come to aid, will result in starvation in many cases, and in intense suffering. We must help produce enough surplus food to prevent the famine, and the War Garden is one of the means whereby we can help. Last year there were about 300,000 home gardens in California, with a value of about $8,000,000. This year we must do much better than that. The rain has come and there is no further excuse for delay, and March and April are the two best planting months in the year. The days are getting longer and the nights shorter, and the ground is beginning to warm up, and by the end of the month you can plant the whole list of vegetable seeds. At present, 16th of March, most everything is in season for planting, and with a little extra care and attention it is worth taking a chance on practically everything, with the idea of making a second planting about the end of the month. In this way you may "beat the other fellow to it," by setting out tomato, pepper, egg plants and sweet potato plants. Don't forget rhubarb roots. There is nothing nicer or more wholesome than rhubarb, and it is easy to raise if you shade it a little and give a fair amount of fertilizer and water. If you have an outbuilding or fence, plant one or two chayotes, a delicious species of squash. It grows into a most luxurious vine, forming a dense shade, and fruits in the fall. Plant turnips, beets, carrots, lettuce, radish, beans, and about the end of the month squash, cucumber, musk melons, etc. If you have a spare place, more or less protected, plant an avocado tree, the fruit is very valuable as a food, being rich in protein, and the tree is a handsome evergreen. Now remember, especially when you get "that tired feeling," that in helping yourself you are helping others, and food is one of the **Big Factors**, perhaps the biggest, in winning "Freedom For All Forever."

HOPPING JOHN

This famous Southern dish is wheatless and meatless, a good ration that combines the food values of both wheat and meat. In the directions given below for preparing this combination, pinto beans ably replace the black-eye peas of the original recipe.

For this recipe use two cups of beans and one cup of rice; boil the two separately until both are nearly done; turn the two together, season with a tablespoon of fat, a pinch of pepper and a teaspoon of salt, and complete the cooking.

Use pink beans, brown beans, yellow beans, black beans in these recipes. White beans are much higher than pintos and needed in great quantities by the army.

"The old house shadows—quaint and fragrant—
A garden famed for stocks and roses,
Where, when the summer evening closes,
Old borders bloom, half-guessed and vagrant,
Like echoes of old songs!"
—"The Garden Year Book."

Buy Liberty Bonds.

Make a water-garden when you get time, if it is only in a tub; as a diversion it beats the mud-pies of childhood days.—"The Garden Year Book."

The Rose

By A. D. ROBINSON

IN spite of all the pessimistic utterances in this column during the last three months, 1918 should prove a good rose year in San Diego, and at this writing the bushes are pushing their new shoots very fast. Cherokees are in bloom all over the city, the pink being particularly early, and the Beauty of Glazenwood has made a trial flowering. Good blooms now depend upon good cultivation, irrigation is needed (roses want almost a wet condition of soil particularly in light lands), and fertilizing if such has not already been done.

It must again be insisted that the true rosarian thinks of quality before quantity and it is a safe bet that your bushes are carrying twice too many shoots for really good blooms. This year more than ever our roses will be compared with those from other parts of this country for many will go into the hands of our visitors and we must not forget that the soldier in the hospital and the visitor in the hotel concentrates attention upon individual blooms rather than vast masses, and also that the general criticism is a lack of quality and odor, therefore take particular care of your General McArthur bushes. This rose knows a good thing when it is in it and has fully decided to adopt San Diego as a place of residence. It will bloom here better than where it originated, Richmond, Indiana, so said its originator when he saw it as a standard while visiting our Fair. Even now, General Mac has buds upon little short stems, generally low down upon main branches. These are mere camouflage robbing the long necks nearer the top and should be removed. Also don't let any of the shoots starting low inside the bush remain. They take nourishment without promising any return in bloom and are the first to harbor aphis and mildew. It takes a good sized bush to mature perfectly a dozen roses at the same crop, yet most of ours are left to struggle with a family of close to a hundred. Of course you will say, "Oh I want a lot of blooms, all the color I can get." In such an event you don't want any guidance for the essence of rose culture is the production of the perfect bloom. Suppose we are sending roses to Camp Kearny hospital, one box contains a jumble of a hundred just roses, the other a dozen long stemmed beauties with perfect foliage; which do you suppose will carry the most joy. The first brings a vision of a hasty trip to the garden with a vigorous shear while the auto honks impatiently outside; the second tells a story of loving care for months, a daily health inspection, a final careful cutting just at the right place to trim the bush and has added to the world's perfect things.

Take particular care of your polyanthas. Cecil Bruner will be loved by our soldier boys. This rose is most charming grown under a little shade when its buds are more delicate pink and its foliage a fairer green. Did you plant those Baby Dolls you were told to? Perhaps you can get some plants in pots even now and if you will keep them real damp and shaded from hot sun for a few days, they won't mind being set out.

This year we should have a lot of Monsieur Edouard Herriot. For your life, don't call it The Daily Mail, for M. Herriot is the Mayor of the French city, Lyons, one of France's great men whose name honors the rose. Fighting for her life, and our life, and the life of the world, France is probably still growing roses. Most likely her women are doing the work most effectively.

So far nothing has been individually heard about a rose show, but it will surely be, and at this writing, the end of April would seem to be the right time to hold it. This is remarked here to stimulate exhibitors. San Diego and its environs should easily produce one hundred exhibitors at a rose or any other kind of flower show. Imagine a class of one hundred for the best six red roses, and so on. It would be worth it just to see the judges work once. If a hundred entries could be assured probably one of our magnates would give a Liberty Bond as a prize and then the winner could give it to the worthy cause that hit her first for of course a woman would win it.

No doubt you are all on the qui vive for the roses, Joseph Hill, with his long pinky salmon buds; Mrs. Aaron Ward of yellow fluted petal; the blushing pink Caroline Testout. Oh, is it not a good thing there is a short season when they are not with us, their return is such a joy.

Remember Camp Kearny every Wednesday when your roses bloom.

SOIL FERTILITY AND WORLD SHIPPING

An important and impressive result of the war in Europe is the gradual degeneration, through lack of manure, of the soil in regions which have been stripped of their livestock. Shortage of ships has also compelled a general abandonment of attempts to import fertilizers. Reduced yields per acre in the Allied countries increase the responsibility which America and especially American farmers, must shoulder.

Buy Liberty Bonds.

Soldier Boys Appreciate Flowers

Camp Kearny, April 4, 1918.
Mr. Stephen A. Connell, Pres. S. D. F. A.,
San Diego, Calif.
My Dear Mr. Connell:

It was a happy day for the men in the base hospital at Camp Kearny when I met you some months ago and procured, through you, the enlistment of the San Diego Floral Association in the service of the United States at the Base Hospital at Camp Kearny. I knew how much the sick boys loved flowers, but realized it more than ever when I saw the effectiveness of some bits of shrubbery and wild berries in the wards, which the nurses had gathered from the nearby canyons.

I bought flowers as often as I could and got some thru friends, but was unable to supply the demand of twenty wards, so I take this opportunity of thanking the San Diego Floral Association for the large part it has taken in the solution of this flower problem, with the result that each ward is a regular flower garden. Thru you I want to thank the good women of San Diego, and nearby towns, for their faithfulness in supplying us with flowers, jellies, etc., during the winter. I want to make special mention of Mrs. Greer and Mrs. Williams who have been at their post every Wednesday afternoon to receive the flowers and get them ready for distribution.

Now, in order that the donors may know how much their work is appreciated the following expressions from the boys, (of which I have hundreds) will tell:

Words cannot express my appreciation of such kindness.

Corp. E. R. Siddall.

I am sure your kindness shall never be forgotten, for flowers certainly cheer one while upon the sick bed.

P. H. Wahlberg.

You will never know with what fondness we look back to the wonderful blossoms that you have donated to the cause.

R. T. Quick.

The flowers brought to us by our dear Chaplain are certainly appreciated by all. The gift of giving to one who is sick is a helpful healer.

E. A. Peres.

The flowers you sent us brings sunshine in our ward, even though it is cloudy outside. We wish to express our most hearty thanks for your kindness.

Walter A. Scott.

Chaplain Horene starting with load of flowers for Base Hospital, Camp Kearny

Thanks and appreciation for the flowers you send us.

Frank Felize.

Thru the untiring efforts and energy of our beloved Chaplain our every little want and need is being supplied and your beautiful flowers have brought us much joy and happiness. We thank you.

W. E. Fowler.

Those flowers were very inspiring to us soldier boys.

Corp. M. S. Cornell.

In a Medical report from France I found this statement, "Neither medical attendance nor food, can do more for the soldier suffering from shellshock, or trench-nerves, than flowers."

With a grateful heart for all that has, and is being done for our splendid boys in the ranks, by the San Diego Floral Association.

I am, most sincerely,
Chaplain G. L. Horene.

The Lath House

A. D. Robinson

WE have all heard of the faith of that grain of mustard seed as an unapproachable record, but a humming bird in my lathhouse is a pretty good second. This humming bird, ably assisted by a husband trained according to the latest feminist movement, cleaned up and repaired an old nest in a Bignonia Violacea and cutting out all speechifying and frills layed two eggs in late February. Not to make the story too long these eggs hatched out two black-headed pins of babies with a little cotton attached and the both of them had not a feather between them and the big storm in March. Several times I went by in the intervals of raining and seeing no parent acting as a water shed and electric heater I mourned for the corpses I opined were in the tiny nest and thought no more of it till a week or so later when, glancing up, I detected the business end of a pin sticking over the edge of the nest; on the opposite side was another and on the thirtieth of March, after much preliminary buzzing and wing testing the children left the nest. How did that humming bird, I mean the Missus, know that there was to be no cold weather in March? The more I see of birds, the bigger fools men appear.

The lathhouse is indeed forward and demands hustling care right away. Beds must be worked over, this I am regretfully obliged to conclude is necessary every year except perhaps in almost pure sand. In working over a bed dig it all, ferns, begonias, and such, can be reset at once and will not know they have been moved except to appreciate the additional room for their feet. Work in manure. the cow stuff is safest, but any well rotted variety will do, and if you have to use a commercial dope, or sheep fertilizer, or guano, mix it first with leaf mold or sand. The object is to lighten up the earth, which sets like a rock with a season's watering, or at least mine does, and visitors say, "Oh, what beautiful soil," so I suppose yours is no better.

During this digging is the opportunity to move things and rearrange generally. Get the big growers in the back of the beds and make room for the choicer plants where they are crowded. Any fool ought to know this, but remember what I said about birds and for years I endured a mound in my choicest spot covered with the commonest and not a very pretty fern because I hated to disturb it, but finally courage to remodel it came and ever since I have wondered why I did not make the change years earlier.

Get rid of all the spent fronds on the ferns and with them innumerable scale and prepare your beds for the tuberous begonias, which should be ready to go out right away. These want rich loose ground with perfect drainage, plenty of sand, and rather coarse humus material. They don't like too fine a mixture. Tubers ordered from Holland two years ago last February came to hand this year just at the right time. They came over in the ship New Amsterdam, and when I read in the paper that our Government was going over her and her cargo with a fine tooth comb for German propaganda, I feared the inspectors might want to see what was inside the tubers, but if they investigated it was with an X-ray, for all were in admirable shape. In the shipment are four colors of the so-called hanging varieties destined to go into hanging baskets. These are bound to become very popular for they are brilliant and easy of culture and quite cheap when they can be had. All tuberous like hanging baskets, the perfect drainage allowing free watering, which is necessary to their best development. Grow your tuberous from the start in strong light, not undiluted sunlight of course, so they will be sturdy. One of their worst faults being the inability of most of them to stand alone. They must be staked as they develop.

The cinerarias have said thank you for the rain and are a brilliant color feature. Their chief drawback is the magenta shade which they seem to love best of all colors, and which fights with everything else. This year much of the worst horrors was avoided by carrying the plants in pots till they disclosed their color, but it undoubtedly stunted the plants. Why not save our own seed from the permissable colors. This year I have some glorious true blues and a few of the most charming pinks spotted as seed bearers and placed by themselves.

The wisteria which hangs from the roof is bursting into the most wonderful lavender mist it ever accomplished and other vines outside in the open are also the best ever from which it is fair to argue even if deprecatingly that these deciduous things like a real rest such as the long dry spell gave them, that is, some of them, for a white lilac is extraordinarily pathetic in an abortive blooming effort.

As I have said before this is to be a lathhouse year. Don't be lulled to sleep by the soothing remarks of our having almost overcome our seasonal deficiency in rainfall. Be real grateful for what we have received but know that the long odds are we shall want more irrigating in May than for many years.

I am watering my lathhouse diligently now, April the First, and don't think I say "April Fool" to it, as I do it; it needs water. This naturally leads to the oft repeated truism that scientific watering never lets the lathhouse or anywhere else get to the needing stage and therein lies the secret of real water conservation.

Flowers in the Public Library

By FIDELLA G. WOODCOCK

THE tolerance of plants to wet or dry conditions appears as an accurate record of the economy of nature, not, however, limited to the sense of penury, but as the exact measure of means in producing either a wealth or want of bloom. The collection of wild flowers in the Carnegie Library has a special interest in showing the amount of endurance that our native flora has in times of draught—a group of belated stragglers that have survived to see the March calendar in spite of adverse conditions.

A list of them seems in order for the appeal of the wild flowers from the economic view point is not in the present case so much in their beauty as in the important fact that they serve as an index of related species under cultivation that will withstand exceedingly arid conditions.

Arctostaphylos bicolor, (Nuttall) Gray, Manzanita.

Diplacus puniceus, Nuttall, Red-flowered Bush Mimulus.

Cneoridium dumosa, Nuttall.

Isomeris arborea, Nuttall, Bladder Pod.

Ceanothus verrucosus, Hooker, White California Lilac.

Ceanothus thysiflorus, Hybrid, Blue California Lilac.

Dendromecon rigida, Bentham, Mexican Poppy.

Eriogonum fasciculatum, Wild Buckwheat.

Brassica campestris, L., Wild Mustard.

Manzanita is most at home in the tablelands of Mexico, but will follow sandy ridges wherever austral surroundings permit, far into the redwoods; however, on entering the humid belt, it shows a disposition to resent the excess of moisture in its cells, giving rise to another kind of manzanita of a viscous nature, called Arctostaphylos viscosa. And again the madrona, so closely kin, seems in its stately beauty a highly developed manzanita, having adapted itself to conditions that tend to produce size and richness of color, in which case locality is the determinant.

The white flowered mountain lilac of Southern California, although much unlike Ceanotheus americana, also having a white flower, the leaves of which passed under the name of "New Jersey tea," in colonial times, when the tax on tea aroused the "Spirit of of '76" to a point making necessary the famous Boston Tea Party, is still a suggestion of the sandy dunes of which seeds of the wild lilac are so fond. A hybrid, "Blue Blossom", a form more common in California,, is a good specimen in the library collection, showing what nature and art can do for one of our most common wild flowers in the way of a new combination.

With the warmth of a deep, red pomegranate, in the heart of winter, the bush mimulus or sticky monkey flower, Diplacus glutinosus, of the north coast, or by more poetic authors, Diplacus puniceus, shows its glowing face on the canyon sides wherever a spring in the hills allows enough moisture to encourage a blossom. The tree poppy of Mexico has found its way through the wild hills of California, mostly on the chaparral covered ridges in shale formations. Though not as fragrant as the Matilija poppy, and not as large, its rich, yellow coloring is not far off from Copro de Oro of the lowlands.

The diplacus and dendromeson have been recently placed in warm-house under glass and in response to cultivation produce flowers and foliage of a fine texture almost beyond recognition. If they will survive so beautifully with self support, what culture can do is an open question. The defects of our modern civilization are nowhere more strongly felt than in its treatment of wild life, either from neglect or indifference to what the history of flowers in the past one hundred years shows has been done with some of our native wild plants abroad.

2152 Julian Avenue,
San Diego, Cal.

Some time when you wish to bring back kid-day recollections, take a SMALL sprinkling pot, and go out into your garden. Select a fair-sized flower bed and water it thoroughly, using that little watering can. If this doesn't make you think of the days when you were a small tot and had a garden all of your own to tend to; of the endless trips you would make with that sprinkling pot, why, you're hopelessly grown up. Of course, it's only true 'flower bugs" who would ever have the patience to try this! "Real gardeners never spatter the water on plants," says the stern papa hoe-user. But just for once, the growings things won't mind—they'll understand!

War on Orchard Pests

By G. R. GORTON

WHEN the owner of a citrus orchard has a nightmare, he dreams that his trees are infested with Mealy Bug, or if he is not asleep and dreaming about this pest, he is lying awake wondering how he will eradicate it. The species which the commercial grower, or in fact any one who possesses one or two citrus trees in his backyard, is most likely to encounter is Pseudococcus citri, the citrus mealy bug. The common name of this insect is descriptive of its appearance, as the females are mealy-coated, soft-bodied insects measuring from ¼ to ⅜ of an inch long about two-thirds as wide. The real body is light yellow in color, but the waxy secretion which covers it is white. The eggs are also light yellow in color, oval in shape and are laid in loose cottony masses, usually during the late fall and winter. The young feed freely and destructively upon tender foliage and fruit. At this time of year generally speaking, because of the cottony egg masses, this pest is more easily discernable than during the summer months, when it sometimes "appears to disappear." As in the case of Black Scale, the honey dew exuded by this pest affords a growing medium for the black smut fungus which covers both fruit and limbs of the infested trees. All citrus trees are hosts to Mealy Bugs, but it seems to have an especial fondness for navel oranges, inasmuch as the navel of the orange provides a cozy little home where it can repose for a considerable period of time without fear of discovery.

Control measures are not as satisfactory as in the case of some of the other pests because of the protection afforded by the cottony mass. However, a great deal can be accomplished by washing the trees with water under pressure from a hose. This treatment is beneficial in that it removes many of the egg masses, besides young and adults, and once on the ground, very few find their way back upon the trees, especially if the trees have been banded with tanglefoot, and no branches are touching the ground. This "water cure" may be followed by fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas, two applications being sometimes employed, the second one immediately following the first, and each one for a period of one hour, or by spraying with crude carbolic emulsion prepared according to the following formula:

CARBOLIC EMULSION
(Kitchen Formula)

Whale Oil Soap	4 oz.
Crude Carbolic Acid	4 fl. oz.
Water to mix	1 qt.

Thoroughly dissolve soap in hot water, add carbolic acid and heat to boiling point for 20 minutes. (It is well to reserve enough water to add in case the mixture begins to boil over.) Dilute 1 to 20.

Mealy Bug, even of the species citri, does not confine its attentions to citrus trees alone. Its tastes include a wide variety of trees, vines, shrubs and herbaceous plants, particularly green house plants, such as Begonias, Dracaena, Coleus, Cestrums, Strelitzia and many, many others. Species Bakeri and longispinus are found on practically the same host plants, and resemble each other to a considerable degree, having very much the same life history and habits, and are amenable to the same methods of control.

ONLY AMERICA CAN HELP

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"Our men are war-weary and their nerves have been strained by more than three years of hard, relentless toil.

"Our position is critical, particularly until the next harvest, but the United States can save us.

"You Americans have the men, the skill, and the material to save the allied cause."

SIR JOSEPH MACLAY, British Shipping Controller.

March Regular Meeting

By Alice M. Greer

THE regular February meeting of the Floral Association was held Tuesday evening, the nineteenth of the month at the home of Mrs. Coulter, Second and Spruce streets.

The president, Mr. Connell, reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. Wagenheim, in regard to the planting at Camp Kearny. In answer to this, Mr. Connell asked him to prepare a detailed plan of the planting as outlined.

Mr. Connell reported on the work done for the past two weeks in connection with the sending of flowers to the base hospital at Camp Kearny. Through the strenuous efforts of the president and a few helpers, a good collection has been sent each Wednesday. A volunteer committee consisting of Mesdames Williams, Greer, Morgan and Miss Jones, was formed to attend to this in the future. Mr. Connell thinks this undertaking of the Association is the very least it should do to justify its name and claim. With such a large membership and so many prolific flower beds in our midst there is no excuse why we should not each week send a large quantity of carefully picked flowers, potted plants, greenery and shrubs. Chaplain Horene kindly takes the boxes of flowers to the hospital as he is very enthusiastic over and helpful in the work. Let every member of the Association bring or send a few or many flowers, ferns or greenery wrapped in damp papers and boxed to the Federal States Society rooms in the Spreckels Building. Flowers which the sick men can hold in small bunches in their hand—such as carnations, rosebuds or sweetpeas—are very acceptable. If you live in an apartment or a hotel, do your bit by gathering flowers from the garden of a friend. Remember the place, Spreckels Building; the day, every Wednesday; the time, from one to three o'clock.

Miss Sessions gave the main talk of the evening, her subject being, "Ferns; When and Where to Plant Them." She said our wild ferns are not very conspicuous, the choicest growing in the winter when they are not looked for. Nearest town grow the coffee, silver backs, birdsfoot and maidenhair ferns, coming forth in the canyons, the hillsides and crevices only in the rainy season. They quickly die down. It is at the time when they are in an absolutely dry condition that collectors dig them up and ship them. As soon as the rains come they start up. Ferns should be planted when dry, not when at their full bloom and height of growth. Ferns will grow where there is only a little shade, not requiring complete shadow. The fern bed should be built slightly above the level of the rest of the garden. Most essential are plenty of water and good drainage. They should not stand in water, but have an abundance passing through them. They need a light, rich soil—a leaf mold, not overly rich. This leaf mold can be dug up on the hillside or gradually made in ones own garden. The soil in the bed should be renewed very often and the ferns thinned out. Plenty of moss covered rocks should be put in the bed.

Miss Sessions made a strong plea for more ferns in our small gardens. They are very desirable and prove themselves to be a constant joy, both in the house and the garden. Many little corners and paths of unused ground could be thus used. Begonias and ferns should be grouped beneath the trees, palms and shrubs.

The speaker showed how all ferns are classified according to the position and arrangement of the spores on the back of the leaves, and passed many fresh specimens, as well as showing her very valuable and interesting collection of pressed specimens, including all the Southern California species, those of the entire United States, and many gathered by herself in the Hawaiian Islands.

LET POTATOES "SAVE THE WHEAT"

Potatoes are universally liked. There is still a large supply on hand that must be used or go to waste. Now is the time to use them while the ban on meat is lifted for a while. Back by savory stews with ample servings of potatoes and cut down on bread.

Potatoes are an acceptable substitute for bread. A pound of baked potatoes is equal in nutritive value to seven ounces of bread. Join the "Wheat Savers' League". Use the perishable potato as a wheat and as a bread substitute.

In the present food crisis all cereals are precious; they will keep, the potatoes won't. As an emergency measure increase the use of potatoes.

Serve potatoes boiled in jacket, creamed, hash-browned, and don't forget the baked potato. The family will eat well cooked potatoes instead of bread. In some of the London hotels, potatoes are served with meat without additional cost, if no bread is ordered. The suggestion is good. If you eat two baked potatoes you will not eat much bread.

Housekeepers will find potatoes, rice and hominy the dependables as a substitute for bread in the "less bread" program that must be rigorously followed from now until harvest, and now is the time to use the ever useful potato.

A single front, a single army, a single people.

In 1913, Europe produced 43 per cent of the worlds sugar; since then she has had other engagements.

S-ave O-r S-tarve.

The California Garden

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Floral Association Meetings

Evening Meetings

April 16—"City Park Development Through Private Donations." Mr. John McLaren, Mr. John Morley.

May 21—Japanese Views with Stereopticon by Miss T. H. Graham of Sierra Madre, Los Angeles county.

June 18—Annual meeting .

POTATO BISCUIT

Boil and mash six or eight potatoes; while warm lay on a floured pastry-board and run the rolling pin over and over them until they are free from lumps; turn into a bowl, wet with a cup of sweet milk and add a teaspoon of melted fat; when well mixed work in half a cup of salted flour, or just enough to make a soft dough; return to the board, roll out quickly and lightly into a thin sheet, and cut into round cakes; bake in a quick oven; butter as soon as they are done, laying one on top of the other in a pile. Eat before they fall.

The excellence of potato biscuit depends very greatly upon the softness of the dough, light handling, and quick baking. If properly made, they will be found extremely nice.

POTATO CAKE

In the usual cake recipe, substitute one cup of mashed potatoes for one-half cup of milk and one-half cup of flour; mash the potatoes and beat up with milk until very light. Potato cake does not dry out so quickly as all-flour cake.

TEAM PLAY

The UNITED STATES is just US—you and I and the folks next door and the people across the way—just US.

All the government does is our doing. Its strength is our **striving**; its resources are our savings.

What we do counts to make or break the power of the United States—every minute, every act—to save or destroy US. In all we do, all we spend, all we eat—we must have care.

Food is our first and last resource, the dominant resource in this war. Our food supply is the final dependence of our Allies; the food situation is the worst worry in Europe—worse now than when we began to figure. On our food supply hangs their fighting power, their chance of avoiding famine, their hope of survival.

We have already shipped to Europe every grain of this year's surplus wheat. To keep them going we must stretch our remaining supply—eat more corn and oats and potatoes. We must send them more meat; eat poultry and fish and beans.

That means team play—going without wheat one meal every day and Wednesday every week; It means going without meat one meal every day and Tuesday every week; no pork on Saturday; a weekly sugar limit of three-fourths of a pound apiece.

Team play—you and I and the folks next door and the people across the way—will do all that needs to be done. Let's help.

WHY ENGLISH BREAD IS CHEAP

Some are still asking why bread is cheaper in England than in America. In England a four pound loaf of war-bread sells for 18 cents, a two pound loaf for 9 cents and a pound loaf for 5 cents. These low prices are maintained in England in spite of the fact that the wheat must risk the submarine zone.

The explanation is simple. English bread is heavily subsidized. It is cheap to the people, but costly to the government. In Great Britain the government controls all the home grown grain and imported wheat. This is sold to the mills at a price that, under rigid control, puts a cheap loaf on every man's table. England's cheap bread, however, costs the government $200,000,000 annually.

Another reason why the Englishman pays less lies in the quality of the bread.. In Great Britain a much higher per cent of flour is extracted from the wheat than even the new regulations require in America. A substitution of 20 per cent of other cereals or potatoes is conpulsory in bread making and 50 per cent is allowed.

The high per cent of substitution and government controlled prices explain cheap English bread. The yearly deficit of $200,000,000 on English bread production is paid by the Government, but comes out of the people's pockets eventually in the form of general taxation.

IN YOUR OWN HOME---

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